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REMARKS

Applicants express appreciation for Examiner Tang's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic interview on December 2, 2004. Also, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Tang for the indication of allowable subject matter recited by claim 4. In response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2004, Applicants have amended Figs. 4 and 7 in the manner suggested by the Examiner so as to replace the reference character "404" with "405" in Fig. 4, and to include the legend "Prior Art" in Fig. 7. Applicants have rewritten claim 4 into independent format. Claim dependency of claims 2 and 3 has been amended to depend on amended claim 4. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5 and 6, without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Furthermore, it is asserted in the pending Office Action that the IDS filed July 18, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the IDS and the PTO-1449 form were submitted to the USPTO on July 18, 2003. Nonetheless, as requested by the Examiner during the interview, and a copy of the PTO-1449 form and each of the cited references is enclosed herewith. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the IDS filed July 18, 2003 be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the document be made of record therein. A copy of the date stamped postcard which indicates the IDS and PTO-1449 form were filed concurrently with the application are also enclosed.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited.

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Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Michael E. Fogarty Registration No. 36,139

Please recognize our Customer No. 20277 as our correspondence address.

600 13th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3096

Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF/AHC:

Facsimile: 202.756.8087 **Date: December 3, 2004**

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 4 and 7 as indicated on the enclosed copies thereof. Figs. 4 and 7 have been amended to replace the reference character "404" with "405," and to include the legend "Prior Art."

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